

JOIN THE VOICES  
FOR RECOVERY:

OUR FAMILIES,  
OUR STORIES,  
OUR RECOVERY!



National  
*Recovery Month*  
Prevention Works • Treatment is Effective • People Recover  
SEPTEMBER 2016

# ROAD TO RECOVERY MONTH

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By: Ashley Reynolds

## INTRODUCING NEW PLANNING PARTNERS

## THE NIKKI PERLOW FOUNDATION

A year after the death of Nikki Perlow in 2007, members of the Perlow family formed an organization that sought to help young adults conquer the disease of drug and alcohol addiction. Today the foundation is lead by Gary Perlow, President. To The Nikki Perlow Foundation, Recovery Month is about showing the world that addiction is a disease and that this disease is treatable if given the proper tools. Organizations like The Nikki Perlow Foundation can change the misconceptions about addiction by showing the general public that people can recover and that addiction can affect anyone.

Today, they fulfill their mission by providing emotional, financial, and logistics support to young adults with drug and alcohol addiction. One way The Nikki Perlow Foundation helps those in recovery is providing scholarship funds to treatment facilities. These scholarships

allow an individual who cannot afford treatment to receive the care they need. Secondly, the Foundation hosts educational programs tied to substance abuse awareness and prevention. They also launch projects focused on breaking down the misconceptions tied to the disease of addiction. Finally, the Foundation focuses

on programs that address addiction prevention.

Currently, The Nikki Perlow Foundation is the largest true supporting foundation in the mid-Atlantic that focuses solely on addiction and

recovery. They have raised over 1 million dollars for both scholarship funds to help those in need of treatment and counseling, as well as funding other programs and projects tied to our overall mission. The Nikki Perlow Foundation continues to honor Nikki Perlow by spreading the word that addiction is a disease and that people can recover.

For more information about The Nikki Perlow Foundation, go to <http://www.nikkiperlowfoundation.org>



Pictured: Nikki Perlow

"Recovery month is to show the world that this is a disease, but a disease that is treatable if you get access to the right tools."

- Gary Perlow, President of Nikki Perlow Foundation

# FACING ADDICTION, INC.



## Facing Addiction

“ Every time we stand up, tell our story, and celebrate recovery, we are taking one closer step to humanizing the issue. ”

-Michael King

On the 4th of October, 2015, Facing Addiction, Inc. officially launched their organization with a rally at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. They are a national non-profit organization dedicated to finding solutions to the addiction crisis by unifying the voice of the over 45 million Americans and their families directly impacted by addiction. Facing Addiction, Inc. brings together the best resources in the field in order to reduce the human and social costs of addiction, every year, until this public health crisis is eliminated.

In order to achieve this goal and unite political parties, Facing Addiction participates in both Republican and Democratic National Conventions. At both conventions, they host wellness rooms and recovery meetings. In addition to working with political parties at conventions, they are attempting to educate and impact families and communities. Facing Addiction helps lessen the discrimination of addiction by

humanizing addiction and showing the general public that people with addiction re-enter communities and live meaningful, and productive lives.

In mid-July, Facing Addiction officially released its action plan - a road map to seeing their aggressive and ambitious policy agenda through to fruition. Working with various communities, they are developing recommended policy changes, such as criminal justice reform.

According to Michael King, Director of Outreach & Engagement at Facing Addiction, “Every time we stand up, tell our story, and celebrate recovery, we are taking one closer step to humanizing the issue.” Shifting the focus from the negative side of addiction to the amazing stories of people in recovery helps individuals, families, and communities realize that there is hope in recovery.

For more information about Facing Addiction go to:  
<https://www.facingaddiction.org/>

## GREEN DOOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

In 1976, Green Door Behavioral Health opened their doors to the greater DC area in order to empower the lives of individuals and families through comprehensive treatment and support services. Today, Green Door provides direct services to nearly 1,600 men and women who have severe and persistent mental illness, an estimated of 90 percent of who live at or below the poverty line. Additionally, more than half are either illiterate or undereducated and 20 percent are living in shelters or are otherwise homeless.

Through various programs, such as housing, education, employment, and psychiatric

and support services, Green Door is able to help those that are in recovery from mental illness.

Our Door Community Wellness Center was created through a partnership with Green Door and District of Columbia's Department of Behavioral Health. Our Door Community Wellness Center provides mutual peer support, self-help, advocacy, education, information and referral services to assist people with mental and/or substance use disorders regain control over their lives and recovery process.

Green Door believes in the value of peers, persons with lived experiences in recovery

from mental and/or substance use disorders, being involved in conception, delivery and evaluation of its services and programs to increase the likelihood of those in need



**GREEN DOOR**  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
*Opening Doors • Transforming Lives*

achieving their goals of recovery.

Green Door staff participates in several Recovery Month events in an effort to have fun in their community. Green Door's Peer Advisory Council, Our Door, and Green Door are coordinating a

Recovery Month "Fun Day at the Park." In addition, Our Door received a 200 community ticket grant from the Nationals Baseball Team,

which provides an opportunity for community members who have not been to a game or want to have

fun with a group of peers in recovery to come together. For more information about Green Door Behavioral Health and Our Door Community Wellness Center, go to:

<http://www.greendoor.org/>

## Featured Events



### Join the Faces and Voices of Recovery; Our Families, Our Stories, Our Recovery Bridging the Recovery Movement to the Big Texas Rally for Recovery – Eliminating Stigma, Shame and

On October 2, 2016, over 5,000 individuals are gathering to celebrate the 23 million Americans in recovery. The event Honor Guard, which are individuals with more than 10 years of recovery, will lead the way as everyone walks across the Continental Avenue Bridge to kick off the event. In addition, on the days leading up to the rally, there will be a pep rally, museum tours, golf tournaments, training on how to effectively share your story, and a recovery idol contest.

Speakers at the Big Texas Rally for Recovery include ONDCP Director Michael Botticelli, SAMHSA's Tom Hill, Vice President of Hazelden William Cope Moyer, Betty Ford, Will Richey, Recovery Passengers Dance Troup, bands and more.

Incorporating this year's Recovery Month theme, *Join the Voices for Recovery: Our Families, Our Stories, Our Recovery*, the Big Texas Rally for Recovery is focusing on communities. Joe Powell, the lead organizer for the event,

believes that the more people who come out, show up, and join other faces and voices of recovery, the more we will be able to eliminate the stigma, shame, and silence associated with addictions and mental health. By making the rally a public event, people can start talking about addiction and recovery. The main idea is to bring together the parents, government leaders, peers, communities, and families to show their support for recovery.

There are currently 200 event

partners and a host of sponsors for the event. An estimated 5,000 people are expected to be in attendance. Overlapping the event is the National Oxford House Annual Convention, which is the first time Oxford House has held their recovery convention in Texas. The conference ends at the rally.

For more information about the event or if you would like to learn more about becoming a sponsor, go to

<http://www.rallyforrecovery.info/>

WHO: Big Texas Rally for Recovery

WHAT: Speakers, Walk, Rally

WHEN: October 2, 2016 @ 12 pm

WHERE: The Ron Kirk Bridge: 109 Continental Ave.  
Dallas, TX.

## BIG TEXAS RALLY FOR RECOVERY CONFIRMED AND INVITED GUEST

(I) 2nd Line Band from New Orleans, La

(C) Texas Recovers & APAA Chairmen – Joe Powell and Will Richey

(I) Ron Kirk (former Mayor of Dallas)

(C) Mike Botticelli – Recovery Czar, the White House

(C) Judge Charlotte Mays – Judge – Dallas County

(C) Tom Hill, SAMHSA

(C) Tom Coderre, SAMHSA

(C) - Ivette Torres, SAMHSA

(C) State Representative Toni Rose

(C) William Cope Moyers – VP

(C) Betty Ford Public Affairs – Hazelden

(C) Michael Duffy – Region 6 Director, SAMHSA

(C) Laura Lacefield Lewis – Texas DSHS, Division of Mental Health and Substance Use

(C) Brian Cuban – Author / Keynote Speaker

(C) Keenan Williams – Motivational Speaker / Prison Reform

(I) John-Leslie Brown – Motivational Speaker (son of Les Brown)

(C) Recovery Passengers – Dance Ensemble – Kids of parents in recovery

(C) Greg Williams – The Anonymous People

(I) Mayor Rawlings and/or

Councilwoman Tiffinni Young

(I) Charles Tibodou – Cajun Band

(I) Quindon Tarver – American Idol / Romeo & Juliet Soundtrack

(C) House Band & DJ – Spoken Word (invited) Dina Lohan - Mother of Lindsay Lohan

(I) Christopher Poulos – Big House to the White House

(I) Jason Hernandez – one of the “Obama 8” recently released from a life sentence





Bottom Picture: Photo taken from a showing of Four Legs to Stand On.

When Ana Bess Moyer Bell was in her master program for drama therapy, she was asked the question “how is performance healing?” For Ana, the answer lied in her hometown. In 2012, her high school sweetheart died after he overdosed,. In the fall of 2014, three of Ana’s friends died from drug-related deaths. After all of these deaths, no one in her community was talking about the drug problem they had, which concerned Ana.

In hopes of helping her community heal from these deaths, Ana created a performance on addictions and loss which runs approximately 35 minutes long and consist of a 20 minute talk-back session. The idea was that the performance would provide a space for people to discuss the deaths by starting the conservations. According to Ana, “It [the performance] was a way for people to talk about the incidents, without directly talking about the incidents.” The original

performance's name was “Four Legs to Stand On” and led to the creation of Creating Outreach About Addiction Support Together (COAAST). COAAST focus on three areas of recovery: education, healing through community, and destigmatization. It is through the performance and organization that Ana hopes to teach medical providers offer a safe environment for the public to discuss the current opioid pandemic, and reduce harm among teens.

COAAST is family and community orientated organization that helps individuals recognize that addiction does not just affect the addicted person, but also affects the family, friends, and community as a whole. They want to demonstrate that families of addicted individuals also need help and that individuals seeking recovery services need a strong support network.

For more information about COAAST and a list of performances of Four Legs To Stand On, go to [www.coaast.org](http://www.coaast.org)

## EDITORS COLUMN

As we approach the 2016 Celebration of National Recovery Month I am deeply grateful that new partners continue to join this cause. As we have always grown with the strength and experience that each of our partners bring to Recovery Month, we embrace and encourage organizations to share their expertise to continue to grow this amazing journey. Please reach out to others who might want to join us in this effort by sharing this Recovery Month Partner Newsletter and the various resources available on RecoveryMonth.gov.

While we have some 400 events listed on our website, we have much work ahead of us, to reach at least 1,300 events, and generate a significant increase over last year’s numbers. I know that this might seem ominous but I truly believe that the events are out there to be listed on our website –

but, we just need to do our homework to try to get everyone to post them. So I want you all to become National Recovery Month detectives and help us identify those events that are not posted so we can get them into the website and we can reach our goal.

I also urge you to make sure you help us secure gubernatorial and other proclamations and, most importantly, to get those in recovery to post their stories on-line on RecoveryMonth.gov to help encourage others with their stories of hope. This is the bread and butter of our observance - to target those in need of recovery through the solid examples of those who we celebrate each September for their long-term commitment to recovery. Your efforts in this regard will not go unrewarded as the thought of others coming into new recovery is its own reward!



Ivette Torres

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- September 7, 2016 - National *Recovery Month* Planning Partners meeting - 5600 Fishers Lane
- September 8, 2016 – *Recovery Month* Kick-Off Luncheon (host: Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA))
- January 26, 2017 - National *Recovery Month* Planning Partners meeting - 5600 Fishers Lane
- March 22, 2017 - National *Recovery Month* Planning Partners meeting (Teleconference)
- June 21, 2017 - National *Recovery Month* Planning Partners meeting (Teleconference)
- September 6, 2017 - National *Recovery Month* Planning Partners meeting (TBD)

## 2016 EVENTS

Teen Challenge of Arizona  
Phoenix, Arizona  
July 16, 2016  
Event - Back Pack Bash  
Contact - Mike Cordova  
phxpr@tcaz.org

Race 4 Recovery  
Amarillo, Texas  
August 27, 2016  
Event - Walk/Run  
Contact - Stevi Silagi  
stevi@sharinghopeministry.org

FOA Rally for Recovery  
Dayton Ohio  
August 28, 2016  
Event - Rally  
Contact - Lori Erion  
FOA.jenn@gmail.com

Rockers in Recovery  
Walpole, Maine  
September 3, 2016  
Event - Entertainment  
Contact - John Hollis  
recovery911help@gmail.com

Capital Rally for Recovery  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
September 10, 2016  
Event - Rally  
Contact - Donald McDonald  
dmcdonald@rcnc.org

PRO-ACT's Recovery Walk  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
September 18, 2016  
Event - Walk/Run  
Contact - Fred Martin  
fmartin@councilsepa.org